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News Release

national machine tool builders association
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MACHINE TOOL ORDERS SURGE UPWARD IN MAY

According to figures released today by NMTBA - The Association For Manufacturing Technology - net new machine tool orders for May 1988 rose to $324.80 million, the highest monthly total since March 1981 (October 1979 orders reached a cyclical high of $565.05 million). Orders are up a strong 28.4% compared to April's $253.00 million.

Year-to-date total orders reached $1,427.80 million, 82.6% above the same period in 1987. Comparing May 1988 to May 1987, orders were up 72.7%.

Metal cutting machine tool orders rose to $242.85 million, up 24.3% for the month, while metal forming machine orders rose to $81.95 million, up 42.0%. Year-to-date figures for metal cutting stand at $1,104.40 million, up 100.6% compared to 1987, while metal forming rose to $323.40 million, up 39.6% for the year. Compared to May 1987 metal cutting orders are up 67.7% and metal forming orders are up 89.3%.

"We are delighted to report another good month for machine tool orders," said James A. Gray, NMTBA president. "And the good news is even better news because the rise is not concentrated in any particular segment of the industry, but reflects an across the board improvement in orders for U.S. machine tools."

Gray continued, "American manufacturing is making a comeback. U.S. manufacturers are upgrading their plants, becoming more efficient and more cost competitive. And they are buying American products to do it. Prophets, who had

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the decline of U.S. industry all but complete, may have to revise their thinking. Manufacturing was and is a strong and vital part of the total U.S. economy."

Total machine tool shipments for May 1988 rose 14.2% compared to April, up from $157.40 million to $179.70 million. Year-to-date shipments total $853.60 million, almost even with the $857.75 million for the same period a year ago. Compared to May a year ago, May 1988 shipments were off 13.9%.

Shipments of metal cutting machine tools rose to $111.25 million in May, 16.7% above April. Metal forming shipments stood at $68.45 million, 10.2% above the previous month. Year-to-date figures show a 16.3% drop in metal cutting shipments and a 42.4% rise in metal forming shipments. Compared to May a year ago, metal cutting shipments were down 31.2%, while metal forming shipments were up 45.8%.

The machine tool order backlog for May 1988 stood at $1,573.70 million, up from April's $1,428.60 million.

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COMPARISON CHART

NET NEW ORDERS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
MAY 1988	205.65	37.20	242.85	73.35	8.60	81.95	279.00	45.80	324.80
APR 1988	146.45	48.85	195.30	47.00	10.70	57.70	193.45	59.55	253.00
% CHANGE									
MAY 1988:APR 1988	+40.4	-23.8	+24.3	+56.1	-19.6	+42.0	+44.2	-23.1	+28.4
MAY 1987	139.60	5.20	144.80	36.50	6.80	43.30	176.10	12.00	188.10
% CHANGE									
MAY 1988:MAY 1987	+47.3	+615.4	+67.7	+101.0	+26.5	+89.3	+58.4	+281.7	+72.7
YEAR TO DATE 1988	949.95	154.45	1,104.40	269.45	53.95	323.40	1,219.40	208.40	1,427.80
YEAR TO DATE 1987	496.30	54.15	550.45	186.20	45.45	231.65	682.50	99.60	782.10
% CHANGE									
1988 : 1987	+91.4	+185.2	+100.6	+44.7	+18.7	+39.6	+78.7	+109.2	+82.6

SHIPMENTS -- MACHINE TOOLS
(Millions of Dollars)

	METAL CUTTING			METAL FORMING			TOTAL Cutting and Forming		
	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total	Domestic	Foreign	Total
MAY 1988	100.25	11.00	111.25	57.35	11.10	68.45	157.60	22.10	179.70
APR 1988	82.20	13.10	95.30	51.70	10.40	62.10	133.90	23.50	157.40
% CHANGE									
MAY 1988:APR 1988	+22.0	-16.0	+16.7	+10.9	+6.7	+10.2	+17.7	-6.0	+14.2
MAY 1987	146.00	15.65	161.65	43.80	3.15	46.95	189.80	18.80	208.60
% CHANGE									
MAY 1988:MAY 1987	-31.3	-29.7	-31.2	+30.9	+252.4	+45.8	-17.0	+17.6	-13.9
YEAR TO DATE 1988	465.00	59.40	524.40	283.00	46.20	329.20	748.00	105.60	853.60
YEAR TO DATE 1987	559.20	67.45	626.65	201.60	29.50	231.10	760.80	96.95	857.75
% CHANGE									
1988 : 1987	-16.8	-11.9	-16.3	+40.4	+56.6	+42.4	-1.7	+8.9	-0.5

Source: National Machine Tool Builders' Association

TOTAL INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
MACHINE TOOLS - CUTTING AND FORMING
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1987	$1,830.50	$ 288.30	$2,118.80	$ 999.50	$2,036.75	$ 286.90	$2,323.65
1988							
JAN	$ 266.05	$ 31.45	$ 297.50	$1,153.65	$ 125.65	$ 17.70	$ 143.35
FEB	$ 258.85	$ 39.20	$ 298.05	$1,285.25	$ 145.10	$ 21.35	$ 166.45
MAR	$ 222.05	$ 32.40	$ 254.45	$1,333.00	$ 185.75	$ 20.95	$ 206.70
APR	$ 193.45	$ 59.55	$ 253.00	$1,428.60	$ 133.90	$ 23.50	$ 157.40
MAY (P)	$ 279.00	$ 45.80	$ 324.80	$1,573.70	$ 157.60	$ 22.10	$ 179.70
5 MONTHS	$1,219.40	$ 208.40	$1,427.80		$ 748.00	$ 105.60	$ 853.60

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1987	$1,949.10	$ 303.40	$2,252.50	$ 118.60	$ 15.10	$ 133.70
1988						
JAN	$ 268.95	$ 32.30	$ 301.25	$ 2.90	$ .85	$ 3.75
FEB	$ 265.15	$ 39.35	$ 304.50	$ 6.30	$ .15	$ 6.45
MAR	$ 227.55	$ 33.10	$ 260.65	$ 5.50	$ .70	$ 6.20
APR	$ 208.15	$ 62.00	$ 270.15	$ 14.70	$ 2.45	$ 17.15
MAY (P)	$ 287.30	$ 46.10	$ 333.40	$ 8.30	$ .30	$ 8.60
5 MONTHS	$1,257.10	$ 212.85	$1,469.95	$ 37.70	$ 4.45	$ 42.15

P - Preliminary
NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL CUTTING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1987	$1,294.45	$ 157.00	$1,451.45	$ 672.20	$1,498.85	$ 177.65	$1,676.50
1988							
JAN	$ 205.75	$ 18.20	$ 223.95	$ 824.95	$ 61.60	$ 9.60	$ 71.20
FEB	$ 217.95	$ 32.45	$ 250.40	$ 966.45	$ 97.00	$ 11.90	$ 108.90
MAR	$ 174.15	$ 17.75	$ 191.90	$1,020.60	$ 123.95	$ 13.80	$ 137.75
APR	$ 146.45	$ 48.85	$ 195.30	$1,120.60	$ 82.20	$ 13.10	$ 95.30
MAY (P)	$ 205.65	$ 37.20	$ 242.85	$1,252.20	$ 100.25	$ 11.00	$ 111.25
5 MONTHS	$ 949.95	$ 154.45	$1,104.40		$ 465.00	$ 59.40	$ 524.40

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1987	$1,365.85	$ 167.35	$1,533.20	$ 71.40	$ 10.35	$ 81.75
1988						
JAN	$ 207.35	$ 18.80	$ 226.15	$ 1.60	$ .60	$ 2.20
FEB	$ 221.05	$ 32.55	$ 253.60	$ 3.10	$ .10	$ 3.20
MAR	$ 178.10	$ 17.95	$ 196.05	$ 3.95	$ .20	$ 4.15
APR	$ 150.30	$ 50.50	$ 200.80	$ 3.85	$ 1.65	$ 5.50
MAY (P)	$ 210.40	$ 37.45	$ 247.85	$ 4.75	$ .25	$ 5.00
5 MONTHS	$ 967.20	$ 157.25	$1,124.45	$ 17.25	$ 2.80	$ 20.05

P - Preliminary
NOTE: This table includes industry estimate figures based on reports submitted to the National Machine Tool Builders' Association. These industry estimates have not been adjusted for change in the value of the dollar.

INDUSTRY ESTIMATE
METAL FORMING TYPE MACHINE TOOLS
New Orders, Cancellations, Shipments and Backlog
(Millions of Dollars)

DATE	NET NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	Order Backlog	SHIPMENTS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1987	$ 536.05	$ 131.30	$ 667.35	$ 327.30	$ 537.90	$ 109.25	$ 647.15
1988							
JAN	$ 60.30	$ 13.25	$ 73.55	$ 328.70	$ 64.05	$ 8.10	$ 72.15
FEB	$ 40.90	$ 6.75	$ 47.65	$ 318.80	$ 48.10	$ 9.45	$ 57.55
MAR	$ 47.90	$ 14.65	$ 62.55	$ 312.40	$ 61.80	$ 7.15	$ 68.95
APR	$ 47.00	$ 10.70	$ 57.70	$ 308.00	$ 51.70	$ 10.40	$ 62.10
MAY (P)	$ 73.35	$ 8.60	$ 81.95	$ 321.50	$ 57.35	$ 11.10	$ 68.45
5 MONTHS	$ 269.45	$ 53.95	$ 323.40		$ 283.00	$ 46.20	$ 329.20

DATE	GROSS NEW ORDERS Domestic	Foreign	Total	CANCELLATIONS Domestic	Foreign	Total
1987	$ 583.25	$ 136.05	$ 719.30	$ 47.20	$ 4.75	$ 51.95
1988						
JAN	$ 61.60	$ 13.50	$ 75.10	$ 1.30	$ .25	$ 1.55
FEB	$ 44.10	$ 6.80	$ 50.90	$ 3.20	$ .05	$ 3.25
MAR	$ 49.45	$ 15.15	$ 64.60	$ 1.55	$ .50	$ 2.05
APR	$ 57.85	$ 11.50	$ 69.35	$ 10.85	$ .80	$ 11.65
MAY (P)	$ 76.90	$ 8.65	$ 85.55	$ 3.55	$ .05	$ 3.60
5 MONTHS	$ 289.90	$ 55.60	$ 345.50	$ 20.45	$ 1.65	$ 22.10

P - Preliminary
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